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H I S
M A I E S T I E S
D E C L A R A T I O N,

Touching his proceedings in the
late Assemblée and Conuention
of Parliament.



Imprinted at London by BONHAM
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MAJESTIES DECLARATION

touching his proceedings in the
late Assembly and Convention
of Parliament



Printed at London by Bonham
Carter and John Bill,
Printers to the King most Excellent
Majesty.



HIS MAJESTIES

Declaration, touching his pro-
ceedings in the late Assembly and
Convention of Parliament.



Auing of late, vpon
mature deliberation,
with the aduice and v-
niforme consent of Our
whole Priuie Councell,
determined to dissolue
the Assembly and Con-

uention of Parliament, lately called toge-
ther by Our Regall power and Authori-
tie, Wee were pleased by Our Proclamati-
on, giuen at Our Palace of *Westminster* the
sixt day of this instant *Ianuary*, to declare,
not onely Our pleasure and resolution

therein, but also to expresse some especiall passages and proceedings, moouing vs to that resolution: Wherein, albeit hauing so many yeeres swayed the swords and scepters of three renowned kingdomes, Wee cannot but discerne (as much as any Prince liuing) what apperteineth to the height of a powerfull Monarch: yet, that all men might discerne, that Wee, like Gods true Vicegerent, delight not so much in the greatnesse of Our place, as in the goodnesse & benignitie of our gouernment, We were content in that one Act to descend many degrees beneath Our Selfe: First, by communicating to all Our people the reasons of a resolution of State, which Princes vse to reserue, *inter arcana Imperij*, to themselues and their Priuie Councell: Secondly, by mollifying and mixing the peremptorie and binding qualitie of a Proclamation, with the indulgence of a milde and fatherly instruction: And lastly, leading them, and opening to them that forbidden Arke of Our absolute and indisputable Prerogatiue, concerning the calling, continuing,

and

and dissoluing of Parliaments : which, though it were more then superabundant to make Our Subiects know the realitie of Our sincere intentions ; yet Wee not satisfied therewith , but finding the bounds of a Proclamation too straight to conteine and expresse the boundlesse affection that Wee beare to Our good and louing people, are pleased hereby to inlarge Our Selfe, (as Wee promised in Our said Proclamation) by a more full and plaine expression of those Letters and Messages that passed from Vs to the Commons in Parliament, which by reason of the length of them, could not bee related at large , but briefly pointed at in Our said Proclamation. For, as in generall the great actions of Kings are done as vpon a stage, obuious to the publike gazing of euery man ; so are Wee most willing, that the trueth of this particular, concerning Our owne honour, and the satisfaction of Our Subiects, should bee represented vnto all men without vaile or couering, being assured that the most plainnesse and freedome will most aduantage

Ys, hauing in this, and all Our Actions euer affected such sinceritie and vprightnes of heart, as were Wee all transparent, and that men might readily passe to Our inward thoughts, they should there perceiue the selfe-same affections which Wee haue euer professed in Our outward words and Actions.

¶ Hauing anticipated the time of reassembling Our Parliament to the twentieth day of *November* last, (which Wee formerly appointed to haue met vpon the eighth of *February* next,) vpon the confidence that their noble and generous declaration at their parting the fourth of *June* put vs in, of their free and liberall assistance to the recovery of Our Childrens ancient inheritance, and hauing declared to them Our resolution of taking vpon Vs the defence of Our childrens patrimonie by way of Armes, the Commons very heartily and dutifullly fell immediatly after their reassembling, to treat of a necessary supplic, and concluded, for the present, to grant a Subsidie to be paid in *February* next, (the
3V
last

last paiment of the latter Subsidie granted by them being not to come in vntill May following) whereby Wee were well and cleerly satisfied of the good intentiō of the Commons in generall, by whose vniforme vote & assent that Subsidy was resolved on, not without intimation of a more ample supplie to be yeelded in conuenient time.

But before this their resolution was reduced into a formall Acte or Bill, some discontented persons that were the cause of all that euill which succeeded, endeavouring to clog the good will of the Commons with their owne vnreasonable ends, fell to dispute in the House of Our high Prerogatiues, namely of the match of Our dearest sonne the Prince, of the making warre with forreigne Princes Our Allies, betweene whom and Vs there was a firme peace religiously made and obserued hitherunto: All which they couered with the cloake of Religion, and with the faire pretence of a duetifull Petition to bee preferred to Vs. Wee vnderstanding right well, that those points were not disputable

inParliament, without Our owne Royall direction, being of Our highest Prerogatiues, the very Characters of Souereignty; & thinking; that when euery Subiect by nature, and the Lawes of the Realme, had the power of matching their children according to their owne best liking, none should denie Vs the like; especially Wee hauing at the beginning of the Parliament declared Our purpose concerning the matching of Our Sonne, the Prince, were fully perswaded, that those specious outsides of Religion and humble petitioning, were added onely to gaine passage vnto those things, which being propounded in their true colours, mult needs haue appeared vniust and vnreasonable, as matters wherewith neuer any Parliament had presumed to meddle before, except they had bene thereunto required by their King; nay, not befitting Our Priuie Councell to meddle with, without Our speciall command and allowance; since the very consulting vpon such matters (though in neuer so priuate a maner) being discovered abroad, might

at some time produce as ill effects, as if they were publickly resolved vpon. For as concerning the point of Religion, We aswell in the beginning of the Parliament, by a publicke and open Declaration made to both Houses in the higher House of Parliament, as also shortly after, by a gracious answere vnto a former Petition of theirs, expressed to the full Our immutable resolution to maintaine true Religion, besides the vntainted practise of Our whole life in that point. And howsoever an humble Petition beare a faire shew of respect; yet if vnder colour of concluding on a Petition, a way should bee opened to treat in Parliament of the mysteries of State, without Our Royall allowance, it were a great and vnusuall breach vpon the Royall power: Besides, who knoweth not that the preferring of a Petition, includes an expectation to haue it graunted? and therefore to nippe this springing euill in the beginning, Wee directed Our Letters to the Speaker of that House, the tenour of which Letters followeth.



After Speaker, Wee
 haue heard by diuers re-
 ports to Our great grieve,
 That the farre distance
 of Our Person at this time from Our
 high Court of Parliament, caused by
 Our want of health, hath emboldened
 some fiery and popular spirits in Our
 House of Commons, to debate and ar-
 gue publikely, in matters farre beyond
 their reach or capacitie, and so ten-
 ding to Our high dishonour, and to the
 trenching upon Our Prerogatiue
 Royall. You shall therefore acquaint
 that House with Our Pleasure, That
 none therein shall henceforth presume
 to meddle with any thing concerning
 Our gouernment, or mysteries of State;
 namely, not to speake of Our dearest
 Sonnes

Sonnes match with the Daughter of Spaine, nor to touch the Honour of that King, or any other Our friends or Confederates: And also not to meddle with any mens particulars, which haue their due motion in Our ordinarie Courts of Justice. And whereas We heare that they haue sent a message to Sir Edwin Sandys, to know the reasons of his late restraint, you shall in Our name resolute them, That it was not for any misdemeanour of his in Parliament: But to put them out of doubt of any question of that nature that may arise among them hereafter, you shall resolute them in Our name, That We thinke our Selfe very free and able to punish any mans misdemeanours in Parliament, as well during their sitting, as after; which

We meane not to spare hereafter, upon any occasion of any mans insolent behaviour there, that shall be ministred unto Us. And if they haue already touched any of these points which Wee haue here forbidden, in any Petition of theirs which is to be sent vnto Vs, it is Our pleasure that you shall tell them, That except they reforme it before it come to Our hands, Wee will not deigne the hearing nor answering of it. And whereas Wee heare that they are desirous, that We should make this a Session of Parliament before Christmas, You may tell them, It shall be in their default if they want it: For if they will make ready betweene this and that time, some such Lawes as shall be really good for the Common-wealth, Wee will very willingly

lingly giue Our Royall assent vnto
 them: And so it shall thereby appeare,
 That if good Lawes be not made at
 this time for the weale of the people,
 the blame shall onely and most iustly
 lie vpon such turbulent spirits, as shall
 preferre their particular ends to the
 weale of this Kingdome and Common-
 wealth. And so We bid you farewell.
 Giuen at Our Court at Newmarket,
 the third day of December, 1621.

To Our trustie and welbeloued,
The Speaker of Our Commons
 House of Parliament.

Which



Hich Letters being publike-ly read in the House, they were so farre either from reforming their intended Petition, which contained those points by Vs forbidden, or yet from going on cheerefully in propounding of good Lawes, for which they were called, and to which purpose Wee granted them in the end of Our said Letter to the Speaker, to make it a Session before Christmas, whereof Wee vnderstood them to bee very desirous, that they resolved to send the same vnto vs together with another Petition iustifying the former, notwithstanding Our forbidding them in Our said Letter to send the former Petition vnto Vs, as also sate euer silent thereafter, till they were dissolved, as shall hereafter more largely be expressed.

Those petitions being sent from the Commons by a select number of that House vnto Vs then being at *Newmarket* for Our health, the House forbare to proceed in any businesse of importance, purposing,

posing, as was apparantly discerned, and as the euent prooued, so to continue vntill the returne of their Messengers with Our Answere, which wee vnderstanding, and being desirous to haue the time better husbanded, as was fit (the shortnesse thereof, by reason of the approach of Christmas being respected) required Our Secretarie to deliuer a Message vnto them for this purpose, which he did, first by word of mouth, and after by appointment of the House set it downe in writing in these words, viz.



Is Maiestie, remembering that this House was desirous to haue a Session betweene this and Christmasse, whereupon it pleased Him to signifie vnto vs, that wee should haue contentment therein, and that there should be a Session, if wee

C

our

our selues were not in fault, taking now notice that the House forbeares to proceede with any Billes untill the returne of the Messengers, lately sent vnto his Maiestie, hath enioyned mee to commaund the House in his Name not to lose time in their proceeding, for preparing of good Lawes in the meane while, in consideration of this so neere approach of Christmasse; And that his Maiestie hopes they will not take vpon them to make a Recessse in effect, though not in shew without his warrant.



Vt this Message being deliuered, was so farre from working that good effect, which Wee did most iustly expect, that contrariwise some captious and curi-

ous

ous heads tooke exception thereat, as tending to the breach of their Priuiledges, by commanding them to proccede with Bills, though We thereby, neither designed any particular Billes for them to proceed with, nor yet forbade any other Parliamentary proceedings; And with those, and such other vndutifull straines of wit, they spunne out the time vntill the returne of their Messengers, who being come to *Newmarket*, presented both the Petitions vnto vs, who well knowing before hand the effect of the former, and then obseruing the contents of the latter, and finding, that from both did reflect vpon Our Person and gouernment sundry causelesse aspersions, and that thereby Our Royall Prerogatiues were inuaded and assailed, after an admonition to beware of meddling therewith, Wee returned vnto them Our Answer in writing, as followeth.

C 2 **HIS**

HIS MAIESTIES ANSWERE to the Apologetike

Petition of the House of
COMMONS,
*Presented to his Maiesty by a dozen of the Members of that House,
by their directions.*



WE must heere begin in the same fashion that We would haue done if your first Petition had come to Our hands before We had made a stay thereof, which is to repeat the first words of the late Queene of famous memory, used by her in Answer to an insolent proposition, made by a Polonian Ambassadour vnto her, That is, Legatum expectabamus, Heraldum accepimus. For We had great reason

to expect that the first Message from your House should haue beene a Message of thankesgiuing for Our continued gracious behavior towards Our people since your last Recesse, not onely by Our Proclamation of grace, wherein were conteined fixe or seuen and thircy Articles, all of seuerall points of grace to the people; but also by the labour We tooke for the satisfaction of both Houses in those three Articles recommended vnto Us in both their names by the right Reuerend Father in God, the Archbishop of Canterbury, And likewise for the good gouernement of Ireland We are now in hand with at your request. But not onely haue Wee heard no newes of all this, but contrary great complaints of the danger of Religi-

on within this Kingdome tacitely
 implying Our ill gouernment in this
 point. And We leaue to you to iudge,
 whether it be your duties that are the
 Representatiue body of Our people,
 so to distast them with Our gouern-
 ment, whereas by the contrary it is
 your duty with all your endeaours to
 kindle more and more a dutifull and
 thankefull loue in the peoples hearts
 towards Vs for Our iust and graci-
 ous gouernment. Now, whereas in
 the very beginning of this your Ap-
 pologie, you taxe Vs in faire termes
 of trusting vncertaine reports, and
 partiall informations concerning your
 proceedings, We wish you to remem-
 ber, that We are an old and experien-
 ced King, needing no such leßons, be-
 ing in Our conscience freest of any
 King

King alive from hearing or trusting idle reports, which so many of your House as are neereſt Vs can beare, witneſſe unto you, if you would giue as good eare to them, as you doe to ſome Tribunitiaſl Orators amongſt you. And for prooſe in this particular, Wee haue made your owne Meſſengers conſerre your other Petition, ſent by you with the copie thereof, which was ſent Vs before, betweene which there is no difference at all, but that ſince Our receiuing the firſt Copy you added a concluſion unto it, which could not come to Our hands till it was done by you, and your Meſſengers ſent, which was all at one time. And if that We had had no Copie of it before hand, We muſt haue receiued your firſt Petition to

Our

Our great dishonour, before Wee had knowen what it contained, which would haue enforced Vs to haue returned you a farre worse answer then now We doe. For then your Messengers had returned with nothing; but that Wee haue iudged your petition unlawfull and unworthy of an Answer. For as to your Conclusion thereof, it is nothing, but *Protestatio contraria facto*. For in the body of your Petition you usurpe upon Our Prerogatiue Royall, and meddle with things farre aboue your reach: And then in the conclusion you protest the contrary, as if a Robber would take a mans purse, and then protest he meant not to rob him. For first, you presume to giue Vs your aduice concerning the match
of

of Our dearest Son with some Protestant, We cannot say Princeſſe (for Wee know none of theſe fit for him,) and diſſwade Vs from his match with Spaine, • vrging Vs to a preſent warre with that King : And yet in the concluſion, forſooth, ye proteſt ye intend not to preſſe vpon Our moſt vndoubted and regall Prerogatiue as if the Petitioning of Vs in matters that your ſelues confeſſe yee ought not to meddle with, were not a meddling with them. And whereas yee pretend, that you were inuited to this courſe by the ſpeeches of three Honourable Lords ; Yet by ſo much as your ſelues repeat of their ſpeeches, nothing can bee concluded, but that Wee were reſolved by warre to regaine the Palatinate, if otherwiſe

D

VWee

*W*e could not attaine vnto it ; and
 you were inuited to aduise forthwith
 vpon a supplie for keeping the forces
 in the Palatinate from disbanding,
 and to foresee the meanes for the ray-
 sing and maintaining of the body of
 an Armie for that warre against the
 Spring. Now what inference can
 be made vpon this , That therefore
*W*e must presently denounce warre
 against the King of Spaine, breake
 Our dearest Sonnes match, and
 match him to one of Our Religion, let
 the world iudge. The difference is
 no greater, then as if *W*e would tell
 a Merchant , that *W*e had great
 neede to borrow money from him
 for raying an Armie, that thereupon
 it should follow, that *W*e were bound
 to follow his aduice in the directions
 of

of the warre, and all things depending thereupon. But yet not contenting your selves with this excuse of yours, which indeed cannot hold water, ye come after to a direct contradiction to the conclusion of your former Petition, saying, That the Honour and safety of Us and Our Posterity, and the Patrimony of Our Children, invaded and possessed by their enemies, the welfare of Religion, and State of Our Kingdome are matter at any time not unfit for your deepest considerations in Parliament. To this generality We answered with the Logicians, That where all things are contained, nothing is omitted. So as this plenipotencie of yours inuests you in all power upon Earth, lacking nothing but the Popes

to haue the keyes also both of Heauen
 and Purgatory. And to this vast
 generality of yours, We can giue no
 other answer, for it will trouble all the
 best Lawyers in the House to make
 a good Commentary vpon it: For so
 did the Puritan Ministers in Scot-
 land bring all kinde of causes with-
 in the compasse of their iurisdiction,
 saying, That it was the Churches of-
 fice to iudge of slander, and there
 could no kinde of crime or fault bee
 committed, but there was a slander
 in it, either against God, the King,
 or their Neighbour. And by this
 meanes they hooked in to themselues
 the cognisance of all causes, or like
 Bellarmines distinction of the Popes
 power ouer all Kings, in ordine ad
 Spiritualia, whereby he giues him all

temporall iurisdiction ouer them. But to giue you a direct Answer to the matter of warre, for which you are so earnest, We confesse VVe rather expected that you should haue giuen Us great and hartie thankses for the so long maintaining a setled peace in all Our Dominions, when as all Our Neighbours about are in a miserable combustion of warre; but Dulce bellum inexpertis; and We indeed find by experience, that a number of Our Subiects are so pampered with peace, as they are desirous of change, though they know not what. It is true that We haue euer professed, and in that minde, with Gods grace, Wee meane to liue and die, That We will labour by all meanes possible, either by treaty, or by force to restore Our Chil-

dren to their ancient Dignities and Inheritances; and whatsoeuer Christian Princes or Potentates will set themselves against it, Wee will not spare any lawfull meanes to bring Our so iust and Honourable purpose to a good end; neither shall the Match of Our Sonne, or any other worldly respect be preferred to this Our Resolution: For by Our credit, and interuention with the King of Spaine, and the Arch-dutchesse, and her Husband now with God, Wee preserved the lower Palatinat one whole yeere from any further conquering in it, which within any eight dayes space in that time might haue easily been swallowed up by Spinolaes Armie, without any resistance; and in no better case was it now, at Our Ambassadour, the
 Lord

*Lord Digbies comming through
 Heydleberg, if he had not extraor-
 dinarily succoured it. But because
 Wee perceiue that ye couple this warre
 of the Palatinate with the cause of
 Religion, We must a little vnfold your
 eyes herein. The beginning of this
 miserable warre, which hath set all
 Christendome on fire, was not for Re-
 ligion; but onely caused by Our Sonne
 in law his hastie and rash Resolution,
 following euill counsell, to take to him-
 selfe the Crowne of Bohemia: And
 that this is true, himselfe wrote Let-
 ters vnto Us at that time, desiring
 Us to giue assurance, both to the
 French King, and State of Venice,
 that his accepting of the Crowne of
 Bohemia had no reference to the
 cause of Religion, but onely by rea-
 son.*

*son of his right by Election (as hee
 called it:) And we would be sorrie
 that that aspersiō should come vpon
 Our Religion, as to make it a good
 pretext for dethroning of Kings, and
 vsurping their Crownes. And Wee
 would bee loath that Our people here
 should be taught that doctrine: No,
 let vs not so farre wrong the Iesuits,
 as to rob them of their sweet Positions
 and practise in that point. And vpon
 the other part, We assure Our selfe so
 farre of your charitable thoughts of
 Us, that Wee would neuer haue con-
 stantly denied Our Sonne in law, both
 the title and assistance in that point, if
 Wee had beene well perswaded of the
 iustice of his quarrell. But to conclude
 this point, This vniust vsurpation of
 the Crownes of Bohemia and Hun-
 garia*

garia from the Emperour, hath giuen
 the Pope, and all that partie, too faire
 a ground, and opened them too wide a
 gate for the curbing and oppressing of
 many thousands of Our Religion,
 in diuers parts of Christendome.
 And whereas yee excuse your
 touching vpon the King of Spaine
 vpon the occasion of the incidents by
 you repeated in that place, and yet af-
 firme that it is without any touch to
 his honor, We cannot wonder ynough,
 that ye are so forgetfull, both of your
 words and writs. For in your former
 Petition ye plainly affirme, that hee
 affects the Temporall **M**onarchie
 of the whole earth, then which there
 can be no more malice vttered against
 any great King, to make all other
 Princes and Potentates, both enuie
 E and

and hate him. But, if ye list, it may be easily tryed, whether that speech touched him in honour or not, if We shall aske him the question, whether hee meanes to assume to himselfe that title or no; For euery King can best iudge of his owne honour. Wee omit the particular eiaculations of some foule mouthed Orators in your House, against the honour of his Crowne and State. And touching your excuse of not determining any thing concerning the Match of Our dearest Sonne, but onely to tell your opinions, and lay it downe at Our feet; First, We desire to know how you could haue presumed to determine in that point, without committing of high Treason. And next, you cannot deny, but your talking of his Match after that manner was

a direct breach of Our commande-
ment & Declaration out of Our own
mouth, at the first sitting downe of this
Parliament; where We plainly pro-
fessed, that We were in treatie of his
Match with Spaine, and wished you
to haue that confidence in Our Reli-
gion and Wisedome, that We would
so manage it, as our Religion should
receiue no preiudice by it. And the
same We now repeat vnto you, profes-
sing, that We are so farre ingaged in
that Match, as We cannot in honour
goe backe, except the King of Spaine
performe not such things as We ex-
pect at his hands. And therefore We
are sorrie, that ye should shew to haue
so great distrust in Vs, or to conceiue
that We should be cold in our Religi-
on: Otherwise We cannot imagine

how Our former publike Declaration should not haue stopped your mouthes in this point. And as to your request, that We would now receiue your former Petition, We wonder what could make you presume that Wee would now receiue it; whereas in Our former Letter We plainly declared the contrarie vnto you; and therefore Wee haue iustly reiected that suit of yours: For what haue you left vnattempted in the highest points of Soueraigntie in that Petition of yours, except the striking of Coine; For it containes the violation of Leagues, the particular way how to gouerne a warre, and the Marriage of Our dearest Sonne, both negatiue with Spaine, nay with any other Popish Princeesse; and also affirmative, as to the matching with one of
 Our

Our Religion, which Wee confesse is a straine beyond any providence or wisdom God hath giuen Vs, as things now stand. These are unfit things to be handled in Parliament, except your King should require it of you; For who can haue wisdom to iudge of things of that nature, but such as are daily acquainted with the particulars of Treaties, and of the variable or fixed connexion of affaires of State, together with the knowledge of the secret wayes, ends, and intentions of Princes in their seuerall negotiations; otherwise a small mistaking in matters of this nature, may produce more effects then can be imagined: And therefore, Ne futor ultra crepidam. And besides, the intermedling in Parliament with matters of

Peace or Warre, and Marriage of Our dearest Sonne, would be such a diminution to Us and to Our Crowne in forreine Countreys, as would make any Prince neglected to treat with Us, either in matters of Peace or Marriage, except they might be assured by the assent of Parliament. And so it prooued long agoe with a King of France, who vpon a tricke procuring his States to dissent from some treaty, which before he had made, was after refused treating with by other Princes, to his great reproach, vnlesse hee would first procure the assent of the three Estates to their proposition. And will you cast your eyes vpon the late times, you shall finde, that the late Queene of famous memorie was humbly petitioned by a Parliament to be plea-

pleased to Marrie; But her answere was, That shee liked their Petition well, because it was simple, not limiting her to place or person, as not besitting her liking to their fancies; and if they had done otherwise, shee would haue thought it a high presumption in them. Iudge then what Wee may doe in such a case, hauing made Our publique Declaration alreadie, as VVee said before, directly contrary to that which you haue now petitioned. Now to those points in your Petition, whereof you desire an answere, as properly belonging to a Parliament; The first and greatest point is that of Religion, concerning which at this time Wee can giue you no other answere then in the generall, which is, That you may rest secure, that Wee
will

will neuer be wearie to doe all Wee can for the propagation of Our Religion, and repressing of Poperie ; but the maner and forme you must remit to Our care and prouidence, who can best consider of times and seasons, not by undertaking a publique warre of Religion through all the world at once, which how hard and dangerous a taske it would prooue, you may iudge. But this puts vs in mind, how all the world complained the last yeere of plentie of Corne, and God hath sent vs a cooling card this yeere for that heat ; And so We pray God, that this desire amongst you of kindling warres, shewing your wearinesse of Peace and Plentie, may not make God permit vs to fall in the miseries of both. But as Wee alreadie said,

Our

Our care of Religion must be such, as on the one part We must not by the hote prosecution of Our Recusants at home irritate forreine Princes of contrary Religion, and teach them the way to plague the Protestants in their Dominions, whom with Wee daily intercede, and at this time principally, for ease to them of Our profession that liue vnder them; yet vpon the other part, We neuer meane to spare from due and seuerer punishment any Papist that will grow insolent for liuing vnder Our so milde Gouvernement. And you may also be assured, We will leaue no care vntaken, as well for the good education of the youth at home, especially the children of Papists, as also for preserving at all times hereafter the youth that are, or shall be abroad,

F from

from being bred in dangerous places,
 and so poisoned in Popish Seminaries.
 And as in this point, namely con-
 cerning the good edacation of the Po-
 pish youth at home, We haue alrea-
 die giuen some good prooffe, both in
 this Kingdome and in Ireland: So
 will We be well pleased to passe any
 good Lawes that shall be made, either
 now, or at any time hereafter to this
 purpose. And as to your request, of
 making this a Session, and granting
 a general Pardon, it shall be in your
 defaults if Wee make not this a Ses-
 sion before Christmas, as in Our for-
 mer Letter We notificd unto you. But
 for the Pardon, yee craue such par-
 ticulars in it as Wee must be well ad-
 uised upon, lest otherwise Wee giue
 you backe the double or triple of that
 Wee

Wee are to receiue by your entire Subsidie without Fifteens. But the ordinarie course Wee hold fittest to bee vsed still in this case, which is, that Wee should of Our free grace send you downe a Pardon from the Higher House, containing such points as We shall thinke fittest, wherein We hope ye shall receiue good satisfaction. But We cannot omit to shew you how strange We thinke it, that ye should make so bad and vniust a Commentarie vpon some words of Our former Letter, as if We meant to restraine you thereby of your ancient priuiledges and liberties in Parliament. Truly a scholler would bee ashamed so to misplace and misiudge any sentences in another mans booke. For whereas in the fore-end of Our for-

F 2

mer

*mer Letter We discharge you to med-
dle with matters of gouernment, or
mysteries of State, namely matters
of Warre or Peace, or Our dearest
Sonnes Match with Spaine; by
which particular denominations We
interpret and restraine Our former
words; and then towards the end of
Our Letter We forbid you to meddle
with such things as haue their ordi-
narie course in Courts of Justice: Yee
couple together those two sentences,
lying farre asunder, and plainly leaue
out these words, of mysteries of State;
So as ye erre à bene diuisis ad male
coniuncta. For of the former part,
concerning mysteries of State, Wee
plainelie restrained Our meaning to
the particulars that were after men-
tioned: and in the latter We confesse
We*

*We meant it by S^r Edward Cokes
 foolish businesse, because these heades
 he is accused of were before your
 meeting presented unto Us, and We
 had setled a legall course of procee-
 ding therein. And therefore it had
 well become him, especiaillie being
 Our Seruant, and one of Our Coun-
 cell, if hee had had any thing against
 it, to haue complained unto Us,
 which he neuer did, though he was
 ordinarilie at Our Court, since that
 time, and neuer had accesse refused
 unto him. And although We cannot
 allow of the stile, calling it your an-
 cient and undoubted right and inhe-
 ritance, but could rather haue wished,
 that ye had said that your priuiledges
 were deriued from the grace and per-
 mission of Our Ancestours and Us;*

For most of them grew from precedents, which shewes rather a toleration then inheritance. Yet Wee are pleased to giue you Our Royall assurance, That as long as you shall continue to containe your selues within the limits of your dutie and respect to Vs (as Wee assure Our selfe you will doe) Wee will bee as carefull to maintaine and preserue your lawfull liberties and priuiledges as euer any Our Predecessours were, nay. as to preserue Our owne Royall Prerogatiue. So as your House shall onelie haue neede to beware to trench upon the Prerogatiue of the Crowne, which would enforce Vs, or any iust King to retrench them of their priuiledges, that would pare his Prerogatiue and flowers of the Crowne.

But

But of this We hope there shall neuer
 because giuen. And to conclude, since
 Wee haue now so largely expressed
 the sinceritie of Our meaning vnto
 you, We require you to goe on cheere-
 fullie, and to vse all conuenient dili-
 gence for preparing such good Lawes
 for Vs to passe at this time, as the
 people may see the care, that both
 Wee and you haue for the good go-
 uernement of the Kingdome; ending
 as We did in Our former Letter; If
 there be not a happie Session made at
 this time, it shall bee in your default.
 And aboue all, beware by your way-
 wardnesse at this time, to giue Our
 Childrens Aduersaries cause to insult
 vpon them, vpon the rumour that
 shall be spred abroad of a distraction
 betweene Vs and Our people, wherof
 ye

ye are the representative bodie. At
Our Court at Newmarket the
ii. day of December, 1621.

THis Answer being giuen
at *Newmarket*, on Tuesday,
the eighth of *December*, and
returned to the house on
Friday, the fourteenth of
December, some carping wits that were
more inclinable to peruert and wrest Our
words vnto a sence contrary to our mea-
ning, then to doe any good office be-
tweene Vs and Our people, began to take
exception at some words concerning their
priuiledges toward the end of Our sayd
Answer, that thereby their Priuiledges
were denied and infringed; And by their
example others of more moderate and bet-
ter temper were drawen into some doubts
and ieaiousies, which occasioned much
discontentment in the House, which com-
ming to Our eares, and being willing to
omit

omit nothing on Our part, that might assure the Commons that Wee meant nothing lesse then to violate their Priuiledges; for explanation of Our true intent in the former, We wrote Our Letters directed to Our Secretary, which followe in these words.

Right trusty and Welbeloued Councillour, Wee greet you well. Wee are sorrie to heare, that, notwithstanding Our reiterated Messages to Our House of Commons, for going on in their businesses in regard of the shortnesse of time, betwixt this and Christmas, and of their owne earnest desire, that Wee should now conclude a Session, by making of good and profitable Lawes,
 G they

they continue to loose time ; And now
of late, vpon Our gracious Answer sent
vnto them, haue taken occasion to
make more delay, in appointing a
Committee to morrow, to consider
vpon the points of Our Answer ; and
especially concerning that point in it
which maketh mention of their pri-
uiledges. Our pleasure therefore is,
that you shall in Our name tell them,
that We are so loath to haue time
mis-spent, which is so pretious a thing,
in the well vsing whereof Our people
may receiue so great a benefit, as We
are thus farre contented to disceind
from Our Royall dignity, by expla-
ning at this time Our meaning in Our
sayd Answer, touching that point,
That all Our good Subiects in that
House, that intend nothing but Our
Honour,

Honour, and the weale of the Common-wealth, may cleerely see Our intention. Whereas in Our sayd Answer We told them, that Wee could not allow of the stile, calling it their ancient and vndoubted right and inheritance; but could rather haue wished, that they had sayd their priuiledges were deriued from the grace and permission of Our Ancestors and Us: (for most of them grow from pre-sidents, which shewes rather a toleration then inheritance) the plaine truth is, That Wee cannot with patience endure Our Subiects to vse such Antimonarchicall words to Vs concerning their Liberties, except they had sub-ioynd, that they were granted vnto them by the grace and fauour of Our Predecessours. But as for Our inten-

tion herein, God knowes Wee neuer meant to deny them any lawfull Priuiledges that euer that House enioyed in Our Predecessours times, as We expected Our said Answer should haue sufficiently cleered them; neither in Iustice what euer they haue vndoubted right vnto; nor in Grace what euer Our Predecessours or We haue graciously permitted vnto them: And therefore We made that distinction of the most part; For whatsoeuer Priuiledges or Liberties they enioy by any Law or Statute, shall be euer inuiolably preserued by Vs; And Wee hope Our Posteritie will imitate Our footsteps therein. And whatsoeuer Priuiledges they enioy by long Custome, and uncontrolled and lawfull Presidents, Wee will likewise be as carefull

to preserve them, and transmit the care thereof to Our Posteritie; neither was it any way in Our minde to thinke of any particular point wherein Wee meant to disallow of their Liberties. So as in Iustice We confesse Our selues to be bound to maintaine them in their rights; and in Grace We are rather minded to encrease, then infringe any of them, if they shall so deserve at Our hands. To end therefore as Wee began, let them goe on cheerefully in their businesses, reiecting the curious wrangling of Lawyers upon words and syllables; otherwise (which God forbid) the world shall see how often and how earnestly Wee haue pressed them to goe on, according to their calling, with those things that are fit to be done for the

weale of Our Crowne and Kingdome;
 And how many curious shifts haue
 beene from time to time maliciously
 found out, to frustrate Vs of Our good
 purpose, and hinder them from the
 performance of that Service, which
 they ought to Vs and to Our whole
 Kingdome; whereof when the Coun-
 trey shall come to be truely enformed,
 they will giue the Authours thereof
 little thanks.

Giuen at Our Court at Roy-
 ston, the sixteenth day of De-
 cember, 1621.

To Our right trustie and welbelo-
 ued Councillor, Sir George Cal-
 uert, Knight, one of Our princi-
 pall Secretaries.

AND



ND finding, that notwithstanding all this care taken by Vs for their satisfaction, & that Our thrice reiterated pressing them to husband well the shortnesse of time, in doing good businesse fit for a Parliament, Wee were so farre from preuailing with them, as to all those three admonitions of Ours, which are here related, First, by Our message deliuered by Our Secretary; Next, by Our conclusion of Our Answer to their Petition; And lastly, by the conclusion of Our explanation sent to Our Secretarie, We neither got answer, nor obedience; Yet the continuall care Wee had that this meeting should not dissolue without some fruit for the publike good of Our Subiects, made Vs addresse another Letter to the Speaker in these words.

Master



After Speaker, *W* here-
as at the humble suit of
Our house of Commons
*W*ee condescended to
make this meeting a Session before
Christmas, to which purpose *W*e gaue
them time vntill Saturday next, in case
they would seriously applie themselves
to that end; & likewise since, out of Our
Grace, and to take away al mistakings,
by Our Letters directed to Our Se-
cretarie, *W*ee were pleased so fully and
clearly to explaine Our selues in the
point of maintaining all lawfull Pri-
uiledges to Our said House, which
since *W*ee cannot heare hath had the
wished effect, in making them spend
this short time in preparing things
most necessary for a Session, *W*ee haue
thought

thought good once more clearely by this to impart Our minde vnto them; which is, that in respect of the expectation after this so long a meeting in Parliament, as also that the generallitie, for the most part, rather iudge things by the outward effects then enter into the causes of them, Wee haue an earnest desire to make this a Session, to the end that our good and louing Subiects may haue some taste, aswell of Our Grace and goodnesse towards them, by our free Pardon, and good Lawes to bee passed, as they haue had, both by the great, and vnusuall examples of Iustice since this meeting, and the so many eases and comforts giuen vnto them by Proclamatiō: And therefore calling to minde, that the passing of the Subsidie, an Acte for continuance

H

of

of Statutes, and the Pardon, are the three most pressing businesses to be effected before the end of the Session, Wee wish them, that, as Wee haue giuen order for the Pardon to goe on with all expedition, so they presently goe in hand with the Acte for continuance of Statutes. As for the Subsidie, though time presseth much, yet if they finde it may not now conueniently be done, we will not make that any way an impediment to the good which Wee desire our people should feelee by making this a Session. Thus much We thought good to giue them to vnderstand, and withall to assure them, that if they shall not applie themselves instantly to prepare the aforesaid things for Our Royall Assent against Saturday next, Wee will

will without expecting any further answer from them, construe by their slackenesse, that they desire not a Session; and in such case We must giue a larger time for their returning homeward, to such of both Houses as are to goe into their Countreys to keepe hospitalitie among their neighbours in this time of Recessse.

Giuen at our Court at Theobalds, the 17. day of December, 1621.

To Our trustie and welbeloued,
Sir Thomas Richardson, Knight,
Speaker of Our Commons House of
Parliament.

H 2

And



And hauing at last (as Wee hoped) by these meanes scattered and dispersed those mistes and vapours, which had beene thus raised about their Priuiledges, the House hauing resolved on Tuesday, the eighteenth of *December*, to returne thanks vnto Vs, and therewith an excuse for not making a Sessi^o, and passing Bills, both contained in a Petition in writing, and dispatched the same vnto Vs, being by that time come to *Theobalds*, the tenour whereof followeth.

May it please your most Excellent MAIESTIE,



We your most loyall and humble Subiects, the *Knights, Citizens and Burgeses* of your Commons House of Parliament, hauing
this

this Morning, to our great comfort,
 heard your Maiesties Letter sent
 to our Speaker, full of Grace and
 Goodnesse to vs and all your people,
 haue thought it our duetie forthwith,
 to returne our most humble and hear-
 tie thanks to your Sacred Maiestie,
 for so Royall a fauour vouchsafed vn-
 to vs; And we doe humbly beseech
 your Maiestie to be truely infor-
 med from vs, that although we haue
 beene very desirous in our duetie to
 your Maiestie, who called vs to this
 seruice, and to our Countrey for whom
 we serue, to haue some good Lawes
 now to haue beene passed; and that
 there might haue beene a Session be-
 fore Christmasse, to which your Ma-
 iestie vpon our humble Petition, was
 heretofore Graciously pleased to giue

way: yet entring now into a serious consideration of the nature of those things, which must of necessitie be prepared for the finishing of a Session, and the strait of time whereunto we are driven, by some vnhappy diuersions which haue fallen vpon vs, to our great grieve, wee are enforced once againe to fly to your Maiesties Grace and fauour, humbly submitting our selues to your Royall wisdom, what time will be fittest for our departure, and for our reaccess, to perfect those beginnings which are in preparation with vs; which time by Gods grace we resolute to spend with that diligence and care, as shall giue good satisfaction to your Maiestie, to our Countrey, and to our owne consciences, that we shall make good vse thereof.

This



His Wee accepted graciously, and returned them an answer by their owne Messengers in these words.

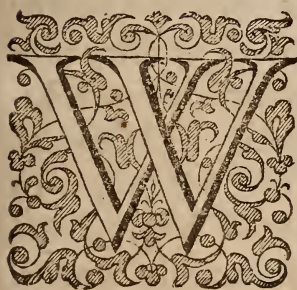


HAT We were sorrie this could not bee made a Session, according to their owne desire expressed in their late Petition preferred vnto Vs, to which Wee had most willingly assented; that they knew there was no fault in Vs, who obseruing the needlesse impediments, vpon which they tooke occasion to stay their proceedings, had often admonished them not to lose time; first, by Secretary Caluert, and afterwards by three sundry Letters and Answers. But since they conceiued the straitnesse of time (which they had drawne vpon

upon themselves) was such, that it would permit nothing to be done at this time, Wee had given order to adjourne the Parliament till the eighth of February next, which was the first day Wee had formerly appointed for Our meeting together.

Wee were likewise pleased to say, that Wee could not omit to tell them, that we expected other thanks from them, then they had sent Us at this time, namely for Our gracious promises to maintaine their Priviledges, as Our owne Soueraigne Prerogative: First contained in Our Answer to their Petition, and afterwards as clearely explained and enlarged by Our next Letter to Secretarie Caluert, as Our wits, for their safety, satisfaction and aduantage, could possibly

possibly devise ; but of this We heard nothing, being slipt by , and wholly omitted by them.



High message was accordingly deliuered the next morning in the House of Commons. But while We were busied at *Theobalds* in receiuing their Petition, and returning this answere agreeable to Our Grace and good intention towards them, these mutinous and discontented spirits, neuer giuing ouer their wicked purpose, began anew to stirre the coles of discontentment amongst them; and making them belecue, that their Priuiledges were yet in danger (vpon what ground God knowes, Wee cannot imagine nor guesse) procured a Committee to be made for taking their Liberties into consideration; where a Protestation was made, to

whom Wee know not, concerning their Priuiledges, which they pretended to bee violated by Our Letters and messages, and thereupon in an vnseasonable houre, being fixe of the clocke at night, and a very thinne House, scarcely comming to the third part of the full number, contrary to their owne custome in all matters of weight, they conclude and enter a Protestation for their Liberties, in such ambiguous and generall words, as might serue for future times to inuade most of those Rights and Prerogatiues annexed to Our Imperiall Crowne, as bee the very markes and Characters of Monarchie and Souereigntie, and whereof Wee found Our Crowne vndoubtedly possessed. For founding the claime of their Priuiledges vpon the words of Our Writt for assembling a Parliament, the contriuers of that Protestation craftily mentioned some words, *viz. Super arduis Regni negotijs*, but of purpose left out *quibusdam*, which restraines that generalitie to such particular Cases, as Wee are to consult with them vpon. And the very vncontrolled

Custome

Custome of all times doeth manifestly
 prooue, that the King Himselfe, or His
 Chancellour in his name, doeth at the ve-
 ry beginning of the Parliament declare
 vnto them what things these *quibusdam* are,
 wherein hee craueth their aduice and as-
 sistance; And vse. is euer the best interpre-
 ter of words in a case of this nature: Vpon
 which vnduetifull Protestation Wee were
 iustly occasioned to publish Our plea-
 sure for dissolution of the Par-
 liament, as appeares by Our
 Proclamation.



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 Excellent Maiestie.
 M.DC.XXI.

1870
The first of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor. The
winter was also very
dry and the crops
were very poor.
The spring was very
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The summer was very
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